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THE  
Thurrock Urban District Council

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE  
Chief Public Health Inspector  
and Public Analyst  
For the Year 1957

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GRAYS  
HIGGINS LTD., PRINTING CONTRACTORS  
1958

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**Thurrock Urban District Council**

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## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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*Chairman :* Councillor Mrs. E. E. OLIVER, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :* J. COOPER

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*Councillors :* Mrs. M. A. S. BURR

P. BOLGER, B.A.

Mrs. L. A. DEXTER

J. FLETCHER

J. T. GLIBBERY

H. G. OWEN

F. L. RITCHER

L. F. THOMPSON

F. L. RIDGWELL, J.P. (ex-officio)



## URBAN DISTRICT OF THURROCK

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

#### *Medical Officer of Health :*

W. T. G. BOUL, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., F.Z.S.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer for the South-East Area of the Essex County Health Services, and Consultant Physician to the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and to the Port of London Authority

#### *Assistant Medical Officer of Health :*

W. R. HOWELL, L.M.S.S.A.

#### *Chief Public Health Inspector :*

L. CULLISS, M.R.S.H. (1, 2, 3) Retired 31st July, 1957

H. A. GOSLING, M.R.S.H. (1, 2, 3) Appointed 1st August, 1957

#### *Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :*

H. A. GOSLING, M.R.S.H. (1, 2, 3) Until 31st July, 1957

J. M. ANDERSON, M.R.S.H. (1, 2, 3) Appointed 1st August, 1957

#### *Public Health Inspectors :*

R. A. BULL, M.R.S.H. (1, 2, 3)

J. G. CALVERT (1, 3)

R. D. PRICHARD (1, 2)

D. G. STRIPP (1, 2) Appointed 2nd Dec., 1957

(1) Indicates Certificate, Royal Society of Health.

(2) Indicates Certificate, Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

(3) Indicates Certificate, Smoke Inspection.

#### *Clerical Assistant—Public Health Department :*

Mrs. D. SAYERS

#### *Chief Clerk—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department :*

J. E. BOLTON Resigned 16th April, 1957

J. T. AUSTIN Appointed 11th June, 1957

#### *Trainee Public Health Inspector :*

G. NOBLE

#### *Clerical Assistants—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department :*

Mrs. E. BROWN

Mrs. B. DENHAM

#### *Mortuary Attendant :*

E. G. WATSON

#### *Rodent Officer :*

C. L. WILKINSON

#### *Rodent Operative :*

J. PERRY

#### *Public Analyst :*

THOS. McLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report for the Year ending 31st December, 1957.

This Report includes the report of Mr. H. A. Gosling, Chief Public Health Inspector, and the Report is my thirty-third report to the district as a whole.

The Population of the Urban District continues to grow year by year and the Registrar General's Estimate for Mid-Year 1957 is 104,200.

The district is geographically situated on the north bank of the River Thames and is one of the largest Urban Districts in the Country. Not only has the district extensive industrial development along the riverside but still contains a very large agricultural community in the north of the area.

During the last few years it has received from the Metropolis an influx of population and housing estates have developed, and are still being developed, not only from the County Council of London but from the County Boroughs of East and West Ham.

The Medical Officer of Health is also responsible to the Essex County Council for the control of certain Health Services and this factor is of great value in co-ordination. The Report will contain, in fact, details of the Clinics, etc., carried out under the auspices of the Essex County Health Services.

During the Year under review the health of the district has remained at a high level. There appears to be full employment and apart from extensive outbreaks of Influenza towards the close of the Year there has relatively been no Infectious Disease of note.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis continues to decline, partially due, undoubtedly, to the Council's housing policy and to the better education of the Public. Unfortunately the number of cases of Food Poisoning continues high and your Staff are still devoting a great deal of effort to the education of purveyors of food and the public generally in regard to this.

I am very much indebted to the whole of the Members of the Staff of the Public Health Department and should wish to place on record, for the information of the Council my appreciation of the work they have carried out during the year under review. I should also like to place on record my gratitude for the continued support of members of the Council and Officials of other Departments, but would wish to call the Council's attention to the fact that in the opinion of the Chief Public Health Inspector and myself an increase in the number of Public Health Inspectors should be considered.

I am, Yours faithfully,

W. T. G. BOUL,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



## SECTION "A"

---

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Land Area of the District (in Acres)	....	....	42,000
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-Year 1957)	....	....	104,200
No. of Inhabited Houses or Flats (according to Rate Books)	....	....	29,151
Rateable Value (31/3/57)	....	....	£1,380,724
Product of a 1d. Rate (31/3/57)	....	....	£5,420

The Thurrock Urban District stretches along the northern bank of the River Thames, having approximately 18 miles of river frontage. The inhabitants of this portion of the district are engaged in the manufacture of margarine, cardboard, cement, footwear, building materials, soap, in Shipbreaking Yards, in Tilbury Docks, or various Oil Works at Thames Haven or Purfleet.

An increasing number of the inhabitants of the district travel daily to the Metropolis.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

The following figures have been very kindly supplied by the Managers of the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance and the Juvenile Employment Bureau.

		<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
At 11/2/57	....	447	184
„ 13/5/57	....	348	123
„ 12/8/57	....	220	95
„ 11/11/57	....	283	116

Unemployed young persons as at 31/12/57:—

<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
33	18



## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

## BIRTHS

## Live Births—

Legitimate (903 males, 824 females) ....	1,727
Illegitimate (35 males, 36 females) ...	71
<hr/>	
Total Live Births ....	1,798
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated .... (Crude)	17.25
Mid-Year Home Population (Adjusted)	15.18

## Still Births—

Legitimate (21 males, 21 females) ....	42
Illegitimate (1 male, 3 females) ....	4
<hr/>	
Total Still Births ....	46
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still)	
Births ....	24.94

## DEATHS

All Causes (442 males, 393 females) ....	835
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated .... (Crude)	8.01
Mid-Year Home Population (Adjusted)	11.61

## Deaths of Infants under one year of age

(26 males, 20 females) ....	46
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births ....	25.58
Legitimate Infants per 1,000	
Legitimate Live Births ....	24.32
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000	
Illegitimate Live Births ...	56.34

## Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

(19 males, 12 females) ....	31
-----------------------------	----

The following table has been supplied by the Registrar-General:—

CAUSES OF DEATH				MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
ALL CAUSES	....	....	....	442	393	835
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	....	....	....	11	1	12
2. Tuberculosis, Other	....	....	....	1	1	2
3. Syphilitic Disease	....	....	....	1	1	2
4. Diphtheria	....	....	....	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	....	....	....	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	....	....	....	1	—	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	—	1	1
8. Measles	....	....	....	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases				2	—	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	...			12	8	20
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				30	2	32
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	....			—	14	14
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	....			—	1	1
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms				41	31	72
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	...		1	4	5
16. Diabetes	....	....	...	—	4	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	....			44	57	101
18. Coronary disease, angina	....	....		83	65	148
19. Hypertension with heart disease	....			12	14	26
20. Other Heart Disease	....	....		30	44	74
21. Other circulatory diseases	....	....		19	23	42
22. Influenza	....	....	....	5	7	12
23. Pneumonia	....	....	....	27	28	55
24. Bronchitis	....	....	....	35	12	47
25. Other disease of respiratory system	....			3	1	4
26. Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	....			3	2	5
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	....			2	1	3
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	....	....		5	5	10
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....		6	—	6
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	....			—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	....	....		4	11	15
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases				38	46	84
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	....	....		8	2	10
34. All other accidents	....	....		12	4	16
35. Suicide	....	....	....	6	2	8
36. Homicide and operations of War	....			—	1	1

## SECTION "B"

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

#### 1. (i) Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The staff of the Public Health Department have been enumerated at the commencement of this Report.

#### (ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The Pathological Laboratory facilities are provided as in past years by the North East Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board and whilst the main Laboratory is situated in Billericay at St. Andrew's Hospital, good facilities exist at Orsett Hospital in the area. The list of examinations which can be carried out is very comprehensive and of a widely varying scope but relates very greatly to pathological reports upon such specimens as Cerebro-spinal Fluids, blood, faeces, etc. In addition the area is served by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Southend-on-Sea where certain examinations of milk, water and ice-cream, etc., are carried out. Biological samples of milk are examined at the Public Health Laboratory Services, County Hall, London.

#### (b) Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance facilities in the district are adequate and the Essex County Health Services maintain a large ambulance station in the Town of Grays and over the last few years the number of vehicles and personnel have been increased very greatly. The ambulance service is an expensive service and every effort should be made by the users of the service to ensure that ambulances are not used when they are, in fact, not required. Certain of the larger local firms provide their own ambulance service.

Ambulances	....	....	....	5
Ambulance Sitting Case Vehicles	....	....	....	3
Stretcher cases	....	....	....	3,584
Sitting cases	....	....	....	5,824
Walking cases	....	....	....	31,368
Total patients conveyed	....	....	....	40,776
Total mileage run....	....	....	....	224,822
Admission to Hospital	....	....	....	1,366
Conveyed to and from clinic	....	....	....	34,662
Street Accidents	....	....	....	289
Other emergencies....	....	....	....	1,727
Total emergency cases	....	....	....	2,376
Other accidents	....	....	....	360



## (c) Nursing in the Home.

The District Nursing Service is under the control of the Essex County Health Services and the area can be said to be reasonably well served, though recruitment is difficult and there are, from time to time, difficulties owing to sickness of staff, etc.

In the district as a whole there are employed thirty-one whole-time nursing officers and three part-time and the table herewith shows something of the amount of work carried out during the year by this service.

No. of Visits Paid	....	....	29,776
Attendances at Child Welfare Clinics....			243
Attendances at Ante-natal Clinics	....		1,313
No. of Confinements attended	....		1,083

## (d) Provision of Nursing Appliances in the Home.

The Essex County Health Services supply, on application, numerous articles of equipment for the patients in their homes. Such articles include ordinary sickroom equipment and also invalid chairs, crutches, bedrests, mattresses and special bed attachments, etc. The main depot for distribution is at Whitehall Lodge, Whitehall Lane, Grays. Nursing equipment on loan for the sick, does not, as a rule, include specialised equipment for the permanently incapacitated.

## (e) Health Centres, Combined Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Attached will be found a list of these clinics and Treatment Centres together with the times of the various clinics at the time of writing this Report.

It should be noted that there is one Health Centre built in the year 1955 from which not only the services of the Local Health Authority function but also General Medical and Dental Services. In this Centre there are four suites of consulting rooms for Medical Practitioners and one suite for a Dental Practitioner.

## (f) Hospital Services.

The area of the Local Authority is served by the Tilbury and South Essex Hospital Management Committee and contains three Hospitals.

- (i) Tilbury & Riverside General Hospital (Orsett Branch) with 230 beds for the treatment of general medical cases, Orthopaedics, Midwifery and Paediatrics.
- (ii) Tilbury & Riverside General Hospital (Tilbury Branch) (General Surgery) 74 beds.
- (iii) Thurrock Hospital — Diseases of the Chest, Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases, 90 beds.



Considerable extension to Orsett Hospital is envisaged in the near future and indeed the extension of these facilities depends very greatly upon the co-operation with the Local Authority in regard to the disposal of sewage from the village of Orsett.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

##### Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The Midwives, District Nurses and District Nurse Midwives working in the area are upon the staff of the Essex County Health Services. The establishment for the area is 33 and it is, of late years, becoming increasingly difficult to fill vacancies in this branch of the services. The co-operation of the Local Authority in providing housing accommodation is of great assistance in filling a post.

##### HEALTH VISITORS' SERVICES.

The Health Visitors' Service is under the control of the Essex County Health Services and the establishment for the area is 10. The Health Visitors also have to assist them 13 part-time School Nurses. The duties of the Health Visitors have been widely extended in the last few years to include the domiciliary care of all within their areas, not only of mothers and young children but with the aged population a great deal of time is now spent with social and economic problems applicable to the aged.

##### DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The Domestic Help Service is under the control of the Essex County Health Services and at the end of the year 1957 the Staff for the area comprised :—

- (a) Full-time Domestic Helps — 2.
- (b) Regular Part-time Domestic Helps — 87.
- (c) Casual Domestic Helps — 125.

This service has increased very greatly over the last ten years. The service, initiated for assistance to be given in households during confinements is now very largely extended to chronic sick remaining in their homes.

##### WOMEN'S WELFARE.

The Essex County Health Services are responsible for three Women's Welfare Clinics at Grays, Old Aveley, and the London County Council Estate. At these clinics advice is given on medical grounds in regard to family planning, etc., in addition to the Family Planning Association Clinic held at the Grays Welfare Centre. The Park, Grays.

It is anticipated that the Marriage Guidance Council will commence regular sessions in the area during the year 1958.

## ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES CLINICS THURROCK DISTRICT

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Details of dates and times of Clinics may be obtained upon application to  
the Health Visitor in charge

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District	Details of Clinic	Address
Aveley	Child Welfare Ante-natal Women's Welfare Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, Hall Lane, Aveley
Aveley Health Centre	Child Welfare Ante-natal & Women's Welfare Minor Ailments Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Centre, Darenth Lane, Aveley
Bulphan	Mothers and Children either attend at Stanford or Grays	
Chadwell-St.-Mary	Child Welfare Ante-natal Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, River View, Chadwell-St.-Mary
Corringham	Child Welfare	Baptist Church, Central Avenue, Corringham
East Tilbury	Child Welfare	Bata Welfare Centre, East Tilbury
Grays	Child Welfare Ante-natal Women's Welfare Family Planning Old Aged Pensioners Chiropody Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, The Park, Grays
Horndon-on-the-Hill	Child Welfare	Community Hall, High Road, Horndon-on-the-Hill
Purfleet and West Thurrock	Child Welfare Ante-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, London Road, and Day Nursery, W. Thurrock
Stanford-le-Hope	Child Welfare Ante-natal Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, St. Margaret's Hall, Stanford-le-Hope



District	Details of Clinic	Address
Grays North Ward	Child Welfare Ante-natal Ante-natal Exercises Post-natal Exercises Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, Stifford Long Lane, Grays
Tilbury	Child Welfare Ante-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, Newton Road, Tilbury
South Ockendon	Child Welfare Ante-natal Post-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, Village Hall, South Ockendon

#### DAY NURSERIES.

The Essex County Health Services control two Day Nurseries in the area at Grays and West Thurrock. In the former there are 30 places and in the latter 30 places.

#### CHIROPODY.

With a large population there is increasing need for Chiropody Services. Unfortunately no extension to existing services has been made since the passing of the National Health Service Act. As a result, within the district, the only service is that provided by the Old Aged Pensioners' Association and the Essex County Health Services loan the building at the Grays Park at a nominal fee.

#### MOBILE MEALS.

The Women's Voluntary Services have a limited scheme for the distribution of meals on certain days upon application. The Local Authority pay an annual grant of £300 and I am indebted to Mrs. G. F. Taylor, Deputy Centre Organiser, for the following information.

Approximate No. of Meals Distributed ....	6,000
Total Mileage (approx.) ....	4,300

#### PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

The Essex County Health Services have a comprehensive scheme for the whole area for Immunisation and Vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Smallpox and Poliomyelitis. Also in connection with the School Medical Services B.C.G. Vaccination for all children aged 13 before leaving school.

## HOUSING.

The Council have 8,553 Council Houses and in addition the London County Council, the East Ham Borough Council and the West Ham Borough Council have built or are building Estates. Despite this there still remains a total number of 4,025 applications upon the waiting list. The allocation of Thurrock Council Houses is dealt with upon a points scheme and the Medical Officer of Health is allowed to recommend extra points upon medical evidence submitted on behalf of the patients. During the year 264 actual cases were considered and recommendations made to the Council.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health medically examines entrants to the Council's service and also deals with medical questions arising in regard to medical examinations. During the year 18 examinations were carried out.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47).

During the Year several cases have been investigated with a view to compulsory removal to Hospital or other institutions under this Section of the Act. All patients however, eventually consented to admission voluntarily with the exception of one case.

## DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

During the Year 1957 the Council, in conjunction with the Urban District Council of Hornchurch and the Borough of Romford, erected a Crematorium just over the boundary of the Urban District in Corbets Tey. The Medical Officer of Health acts as a Deputy Medical Referee.

## CO-OPERATION WITH THE CITY AND PORT OF LONDON.

The Urban District of Thurrock contains Tilbury Docks into which Docks an enormous amount of shipping arrives. For some years the Medical Officer of Health has also been Consultant Physician to the Port on the staff of the Medical Officer of Health for the City and Port of London and two Assistant Medical Officers of the Essex County Health Services working in the Thurrock Urban District act as Boarding Medical Officers.



## SECTION "C"

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## WATER SUPPLY.

The principal water supply of the area is provided by South Essex Waterworks Company, the vast majority of the premises in the district being served thereby. A small part of the area at Langdon Hills is served by the Southend Waterworks Company, whilst the Council purchase water from the Basildon Urban District Council and act as distributors for the Langdon Hills area.

The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year and is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

(1) No. of samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination	....	....	....	....	12
(2) No. of samples taken and submitted for chemical examination	....	....	....	....	5
All were satisfactory.					
(a) No. of dwellinghouses supplied from public water mains direct	....	....	....	....	29,520
Estimated population	....	....	....	....	103,978
(b) No. of houses supplied from public water supplied by means of standpipes	....	....	....	....	21
Estimated population served	...	....	....	....	73
(c) No. of houses served by wells or stored rainwater	....	....	....	....	43
Estimated population served	....	...	....	....	149

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extensive sewerage schemes have been carried out during the year. There have, of course, been the usual extensions to existing systems to allow for the normal building programme.

Work has commenced upon the Grays Central Surface Water Scheme which, when completed, will help to obviate the flooding which takes place in the lower part of the town after heavy and prolonged rain.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The principal river in the area is the Thames, on the north bank of which the Thurrock Urban District stands. In addition, the Mardyke rises above Bulphan and Orsett Fens and discharges into the Thames at Aveley. There are, in addition, various small tidal streams which also discharge into the Thames.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are 682 cesspools, 642 pail closets in the area.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

This is carried out by the Public Cleansing Superintendent and

no important change in the general arrangements took place during the year.

It is the Council's policy to empty household dustbins weekly and cesspools fortnightly.

Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on a site at Baker Street, Orsett.

#### SWIMMING BATHS.

There are, within the area, six swimming baths as follows:—

Public	...	....	....	1
Private	....	....	....	2
Schools	....	....	....	3

The number of samples taken during the year was 28 of which 27 showed a water of excellent bacteriological quality. The remaining unsatisfactory sample occurred at one of the schools and was due to a breakdown in the chlorination plant. In cases where the amount of free chlorine departs from the recommended standard of 0.2 - 0.5 p.p.m., the persons concerned are advised to adjust the rate of chlorination accordingly.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The area contains many large industries situated along the river front and the department pays constant attention to the factory chimneys with a view to seeing that smoke is not emitted in such quantities as to be a nuisance.

The under-mentioned Works are registered in accordance with the Alkali, etc., Works Act, and concerning which there is a high degree of co-operation between the Alkali Works Inspector and this department:—

Cement Works	....	....	4
Oil Refineries	....	....	2

There is no doubt, however, that the principal single source of atmospheric pollution takes the form of dust from the cement works. Of the 14 kilns operating in the area 11 are fitted with electrostatic precipitators — the remaining 3 kilns being small and not in regular use. The production of cement however is so great that the amount of dust slipping past the precipitators reaches a high figure over a year. The Alkali Works Inspector, however, is satisfied that the firms concerned are taking the best practicable means to minimise the emission of dust.

Complaint has been made by the authorities east of Thurrock regarding malodorous emissions from the Oil Refineries. I understand, however, that the complete eradication of such odours presents a problem of great complexity and the Alkali Inspectorate together with the industry, are very much concerned with the matter.



Complaints have also been received during the year regarding the following :—

- (1) The discharge of detergent dust from a large synthetic detergent factory in West Thurrock.
- (2) The discharge of grit from a cupola at a foundry in Tilbury.
- (3) Periodical emission of dense black smoke from a factory engaged in the recovery of lead and copper from rubber-covered cable.
- (4) Emissions of dust from a lime-crushing plant.

In the first two cases it is hoped that, during the coming year, modifications will be made to the plants which will reduce the dust emissions whilst in the third case it is difficult to see how the firm concerned can avoid infringing the Clean Air Act, 1956, when the provisions regarding dark smoke come into force. In the fourth instance, the nuisance has been almost entirely eliminated by the installation of Baghouse Filters.

During the year, the Council have made byelaws under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, regarding arrangements in buildings for preventing smoke. These byelaws are awaiting the confirmation of the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

No action has yet been taken regarding the creation of Smoke Control Areas.

The deposit gauges and peroxide cylinder have been kept in operation and the Council have co-operated closely with the Thameside Joint Committee to whom the results are forwarded.

The results from the deposit gauges for the year under review are appended.

Month	Tons per square mile		Mg. per 100 sq. Cm	
	Cole & Lecquire's Jetty	Ward Avenue Allotments	Sulphur	Trioxide
January	23.33	29.44		1.82
February	33.89	41.94		2.07
March	29.16	27.36		1.69
April	15.31	17.59		1.09
May	24.48	27.50		1.04
June	28.53	25.42		1.15
July	32.82	31.21		1.41
August	36.28	28.31		1.53
September	34.11	34.95		1.56
October	33.72	36.95		1.78
November	28.89	30.09		2.26
December	37.15	32.13		2.86

These results include not only cement dust, but grit and gritty particles from domestic and other sources.

#### DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

In addition to the treatment of verminous premises (detailed

elsewhere in this report) the Council assist occupiers of premises in the eradication of other pests, e.g., earwigs, ants and wasps, either by the sale of suitable insecticides or by disinfestation for which a charge is made. The latter procedure being used in the case of wasps nests.

In certain cases of infectious disease (e.g., Smallpox, Poliomyelitis, Cerebro-Spinal Fever), rooms are fumigated with formaldehyde and the bedding removed for steam sterilisation to the Thurrock Hospital.

The number of rooms so fumigated was 28 and in 24 cases bedding was removed.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

##### *Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.*

The Rodent Officer deals with all complaints regarding rodent infestations; private dwellinghouses are treated without cost but trade premises are charged on a basis of total cost plus Establishment Charges. He carries out regular treatments at sewage works, refuse tips and to the Council's sewers.

The following table shows the work of the Rodent Staff and covers the period 1st April, 1957 - 31st March, 1958:—

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other	Total
1. Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification ...	25	428	61	514
(b) Survey under the Act ...	8	58	—	66
(c) Otherwise ...	—	—	—	—
2. Total inspections carried out — including reinspections ...	192	2101	292	2585
3. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 1) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats } Major ...	5	—	—	5
} Minor ...	27	352	40	419
(b) Mice } Major ...	—	—	2	2
} Minor ...	1	134	19	154
4. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 3) treated by the Local Authority ...	33	486	61	580



### OLD METAL DEALERS.

By the Old Metal Dealers (No. 2) Order, 1952, the Secretary of State, Home Office, declared Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 to be in force in the Urban District.

At the end of the year 29 persons had been registered as Dealers in Old Metal.

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The number of licences to keep Pet Shops issued during the year was 5.

### RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the area are registered under the above-mentioned Act.

### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	VISITS PAID			
Atmospheric Pollution	....	....	....	204
Bakehouses	....	....	....	17
Caravans	....	....	....	335
Common Lodging Houses	....	....	....	10
Dairies and Milkshops	....	....	....	5
Dustbins	....	....	....	191
Dwellinghouses	...	....	...	2,305
Factories (Mechanical)	....	....	...	127
Factories (Non-Mechanical)....	....	....	....	9
Fairs	....	....	....	19
Fertilizer and Feeding Stuffs	....	....	....	21
Food Inspection	....	....	....	152
Food Preparation Premises....	....	....	....	193
Food Shops Inspection	....	....	....	548
Food Vehicles	....	....	....	64
Ice Cream Premises	....	....	....	41
Infectious Disease	....	....	....	504
Licensed Premises....	....	....	....	40
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	740
Meat Inspection	....	....	....	827
Outworkers	....	....	...	45
Overcrowding	....	....	....	16
Pet Animals	....	....	....	5
Rat Suppression	....	....	....	56

Refuse tips and accumulations	....	....	117
Rent Act	....	....	93
Sampling: Food	....	....	439
Ice Cream	....	....	383
Milk	....	....	692
Swimming bath water	....	....	27
Mains water	....	....	12
Schools	....	....	31
Shops Act, 1950	....	....	124
Slaughterhouses	....	....	5
Stables and pigsties	....	....	26
Waste Foods Order	....	....	7
Workplaces	....	....	9

During the year, the work of the Public Health Inspectors has been hampered by the retirement of the Chief Public Health Inspector and the resignation of two District Inspectors — indeed during the latter six months of the year the department has continuously been below establishment.

Having regard to the greatly increased population of the district, together with recent additional legislation (e.g., Food Hygiene Regulations, Rent Act, Clean Air Act), I am satisfied that the time has arrived when the Council should consider increasing the number of Public Health Inspectors.

## SECTION "D"

## HOUSING

## NEW HOUSES.

No. of new dwellings erected during the year :—

By the local authority	....	....	....	292
By other local authorities	....	...	....	20
By other bodies or persons	....	....	....	383

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

No. of applications for Improvement Grants received and number granted during the year :—

No. of applications received	....	....	....	15
No. of applications granted	....	....	....	9

## INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

1. (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	922
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	....	2,305
2. (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1) inspected under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	....	—
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	....	—
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for human habitation, and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit	....	4
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	....	307

## REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their officers	....	....	....	292
---	------	------	------	-----

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) <i>Housing Act, 1957. Section 9</i>	....	....	....	Nil
---	------	------	------	-----

(B) *Public Health Act, 1936.*

(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	...	....	32
---	------	-----	------	----



(ii) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (including those outstanding from 1956):—

(a) By Owners	....	....	....	....	44
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	....				1

(C) *Sections 16 and 23, Housing Act, 1957.*

(i) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	....	....	1
(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	....	....	1
(iii) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted	....	....	....	....	1
(iv) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings to render fit were accepted	....	....	....	....	Nil

(D) *Section 17, Housing Act, 1957.*

(i) Number of houses closed	....	....	....	....	2
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CLEARANCE AREAS.

*Housing Act, 1957. Section 42.*

During the year two clearance areas involving 12 houses were confirmed and three further proposed clearance areas involving 15 houses submitted for confirmation.

Two clearance areas, one in Tilbury, involving 6 houses and one in Aveley involving 3 houses were demolished and the sites cleared, the occupants of the houses having been given alternative accommodation by the Council.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	....	....	....	1
No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair granted	....	....	....	—
No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair refused	....	....	....	1
No. of applications for Revocation of Certificates	....	....	....	—
No. of applications for Revocation of Certificates granted	....	....	....	—
No. of applications for Revocation of Certificates refused	....	....	....	—

This application was refused because the premises were rendered fit after the date of application for the Certificate but before the matter was considered by the Public Health Committee.

RENT ACT, 1957.

The 6th July, 1957, saw the introduction of the Rent Act which placed upon local authorities the duty of issuing and cancelling Certificates of Disrepair, together with the acceptance or rejection of landlords' undertakings.

The procedure, with its multiplicity of forms, seems to be unduly cumbersome and one cannot but think that conditions would



have been more satisfactory had the initial inspection of dwelling-houses been left to officers of the local authority rather than to tenants.

Details of the administration of this Act are as follows:—

No. of Applications received	....	....	....	....	68
No. of Undertakings accepted	....	....	....	....	40
No. of Certificates of Disrepair issued	....	....	....	....	10
No. of Unexpired Forms "J"	....	....	....	....	8
No. of Applications awaiting Committee	....	....	....	....	10

#### VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Ten premises were found to be infested with vermin as follows:

Bugs 9 premises (14 treatments carried out).

Fleas 1 premises (2 treatments carried out).

This figure does not include houses on the Council's estate which are supervised by the Estates Department.

Where houses are found to be infested with vermin, all rooms affected and all effects therein are sprayed with a vermicide containing D.D.T., and Gammexane. A charge is made where the work is carried out by the Public Health Department on the basis of 7/6d. per room disinfested. An increase in this charge is anticipated during the coming year.

#### OVERCROWDING.

During the year 16 investigations were made into complaints of overcrowding. Where cases of overcrowding were established, the matter was referred to the Housing Department.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The provisions regarding moveable dwellings are governed by Section 109 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, which prohibits the occupation of such dwellings used, or intended to be used, for an unbroken period of three months without the previous consent of the Council.

There is in the area a private caravan site which has been approved for the use of twenty caravans.

The Council are anxious that caravans should not be placed indiscriminately in the area and it is only after serious consideration that approval is given to caravans other than on the site already mentioned.

There is, however, a large amount of contract work in the district and approval is frequently sought for the siting of caravans for short periods, e.g., three to six months, and the Council have felt bound to give their approval in several of these instances.

In addition to control under the local Act Planning approval is also required for the siting of caravans. The Planning Authority is the County Council and it is unfortunate that the decisions of

this authority and the local authority are not always uniform with the result that the caravan dweller is placed in an invidious position.

During the year 31 applications were received of which 22 were approved.

#### COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year, 883 complaints were received from residents within the Urban District. Every complaint was dealt with as soon as possible.

#### DETAILS OF WORK EXECUTED.

##### Rooms :

Dampness remedied	....	....	....	....	36
Stripped, cleansed and redecorated	...	....	....	....	7
Plaster repaired	....	....	....	....	44
Floors repaired	....	....	....	....	18
Windows repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	51
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	....	....	....	28
Doors, locks, etc., repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	9
Vermin disinfested	....	....	....	....	10

##### Staircases :

Stripped and redecorated	....	....	....	....	—
Handrails fixed	....	....	....	....	1
Repaired	....	....	....	....	5

##### Sanitary Fitments :

New sinks, etc.	....	....	....	....	2
Coppers provided/repared	....	....	....	....	—
W.C.'s and pail closets repaired	....	....	....	....	18
New pedestals provided	....	....	....	....	—
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	....	..	....	....	3
Soil or vent pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	2
Pail closets to W.C.'s	....	....	....	....	2

##### Drains :

Unstopped or repaired	....	....	....	....	17
Gullies repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	1
Inspection Chambers repaired or inserted	....	....	....	....	9
New drains	....	....	....	....	1

##### Water Supplies and Fittings :

Repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	5
Roofs repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	51
Gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	21
Walls repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	9
Yards paved or repaired	....	....	....	....	2
Dustbins provided	....	....	....	....	36
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	7
Accumulations removed	....	....	....	....	6



## SECTION "E"

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

There are within the area 11 registered dairies and licences for the sale of designated milk has also been issued in respect of 106 shop premises. In addition 3 outside firms carry on a vehicular trade within the district.

*Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949/1953.*

*Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949/1953.*

Number of licences issued :—

(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk ....	....	....	44
(b) Pasteurised Milk ....	....	....	59
(c) Sterilised Milk ....	....	....	116

Number of Supplementary Licences issued :—

(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk ....	....	....	3
(b) Pasteurised Milk ...	....	....	3
(c) Sterilised Milk ....	....	....	3

*Pasteurising Plants.*

There are two pasteurising plants in the district, one of the H.T.S.T., type with a 1,500 G.P.H., capacity and the other of the "Holder" type, with a 200 G.P.H. capacity. These plants have both worked satisfactorily throughout the year, with the exception of the isolated incident recorded below in respect of the smaller of the two plants.

## MILK SAMPLES.

(a) *Tuberculin Tested.*

49 samples of T.T. milk were taken, all of which were satisfactory.



(b) *Pasteurised.*

453 samples of pasteurised milk were taken of which 3 were unsatisfactory, giving a percentage of 0.66.

(c) *Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).*

48 samples of T.T. pasteurised milk were taken, one of which was unsatisfactory, given a percentage of 2.08.

(d) *Sterilised.*

9 samples of sterilised milk were taken and were shown to be satisfactory.

(e) *Biological.*

92 samples of milk were taken for submission to the biological test with a view to determining the presence or otherwise of tubercle bacilli, and in each case the result was negative.

*Milk Samples which failed the appropriate Tests during 1957.*

Pasteurised            3        Failed Methylene Blue Test.

T.T. Pasteurised    1        Failed Methylene Blue Test.

Of the four samples mentioned above three were processed and bottled outside the district. The remaining sample was from a small pasteurising plant in this area and was obviously of an isolated character.

All subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 5 licensed slaughterhouses in the district of which 3 are in regular use. At the end of the year the Council deferred applications for renewal in respect of two of these slaughterhouses in order to give the occupiers an opportunity of complying with the Byelaws which had been adopted on the 14th April, 1957.

KNACKER'S YARD.

There is only one Knacker's Yard in the Council's area, and although it is licensed, it has not been used during the year.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ....	1956	230	356	2894	4771	—
Number inspected ... ..	1956	230	356	2894	4771	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	4	3	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	326	44	—	39	262	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ....	16.66	19.13	—	1.48	5.55	—
<i>Tuberculosis Only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	136	17	—	—	55	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	6.95	7.83	—	—	1.15	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	5	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration ....	4	5	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

It will be noted that every animal slaughtered in the area during the year has been inspected and I think that it is an achievement in which the Council can take pride. I would, however, mention that this has only been carried out at the expense of a great deal of time outside normal working hours, including every Saturday and Sunday throughout the year.

## SLAUGHTERMEN.

*Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, and*

*Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.*

A register of all licensed slaughtermen is kept in accordance with the above Acts and the number so licensed is 13.

## UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED.

Baby Food .....	3 tins	Milk (dried) .....	2 cwts.
Cereals .....	15 pkts.	Onions .....	2 lbs.
Cheese (boxes) .....	339 boxes	Orange juice .....	35 bottles
Cheese spread .....	55 boxes	Oats .....	1 pkt.
Chickens .....	50 lbs.	Paste .....	187 jars
Chicken .....	1 jar	Peanuts .....	3 boxes
Chocolate drinking powder .....	1 tin	Peanut Butter .....	2 jars
Cream .....	45 tins	Pease pudding .....	2 tins
Chocolate Marshmallow creams .....	16 tins	Pickles .....	6 jars
Coffee powder .....	3 tins	Potatoes .....	2 cwts.
Eggs .....	360	Preserves .....	14 jars
Fish .....	323 tins	Prunes .....	1 jar
Fish (wet) .....	47 lbs.	Rice .....	7 tins
Fish paste .....	1 jar	Stem ginger .....	1 jar
Flour .....	74 lbs.	Salad Cream .....	17 jars
Fruit .....	1,671 tins	Sauce .....	22 bottles
Fruit juice .....	2 tins	Sandwich spread .....	5 jars
Ham .....	17 lbs.	Soup .....	405 tins
Honey .....	2 jars	Spaghetti .....	12 tins
Jam .....	15 jars	Syrup .....	6 tins
Marmalade .....	15 jars	Steak and kidney pudding .....	3 tins
Meat .....	647 tins	Tomato juice .....	2 tins
Meat .....	6 lbs.	Tomato ketchup .....	3 bottles
Milk .....	596 tins	Turkey .....	1 jar
		Vegetables .....	1,610 tins

## DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Those surrendered or condemned foods not required to be returned through trade channels are collected by the department and disposed of by burying on the Council's refuse disposal site.

Meat condemned at slaughterhouses is stained before release.



## ICE CREAM SAMPLES.

368 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:—

<i>Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade</i>				<i>No. of Samples</i>
Grade I	....	....	....	238
Grade II	....	....	....	97
Grade III	....	....	....	19
Grade IV	....	....	....	14

12 ice lolly samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

9 rinsings from ice cream manufacturing plants were also taken and are the subject of comment later in this section.

The standard of ice-cream sold within the area throughout the year is set out below:—

Producer	Total Samples therefrom	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grades				Quality
		I	II	III	IV	
A	66	26	22	12	6	Unsatisfactory
B	17	—	9	2	6	Unsatisfactory
C	49	23	23	1	2	Unsatisfactory
D	86	73	11	2	—	Satisfactory
E	82	69	12	1	—	Satisfactory
F	12	5	7	—	—	Satisfactory
G	13	13	—	—	—	Satisfactory
H	24	16	8	—	—	Satisfactory
I	19	13	5	1	—	Satisfactory
	<hr/> 368 <hr/>	<hr/> 238 <hr/>	<hr/> 97 <hr/>	<hr/> 19 <hr/>	<hr/> 14 <hr/>	

Producer "A" is situated in the Urban District. The remaining producers manufacture outside the area but retail their supplies within. It is often difficult to obtain a sufficient number of samples in order to draw a reasonable conclusion as to the general standard of a manufacturer.

Of the total 368 samples, 66 were from a Thurrock producer and came within the following categories:—

<i>Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade</i>				<i>No. of Samples</i>
Grade I	....	....	....	26
Grade II	....	....	....	22
Grade III	....	....	....	12
Grade IV	....	....	....	6
Percentage of Grade I samples	....			39.4%
Percentage of Grade I and II samples	....			72.72%
Percentage of Grade III samples	....			18.2%
Percentage of Grade IV samples	....			9.1%

The Council viewed with great concern the number of Grade 4 samples obtained from this producer, especially in view of the fact that faecal coli were present. On two occasions the firm were requested to appear before the Public Health Committee who, in the strongest terms, expressed their dissatisfaction and received an undertaking that the greatest possible effort would be made to improve the quality of the ice cream. In addition the firm enlisted the services of a Consulting Analyst and it is hoped that, during the coming year, the standard will have improved.

#### FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

The above Regulations came into force at the beginning of the previous year (with the exception of certain sections, which had a deferred period) and have been enforced in the district. Some 846 inspections and re-inspections were made of various food shops and premises in the area and I append below details of contraventions of the Regulations noted.

REQUIREMENTS			No. OF NOTIFICATIONS
Provision of first-aid materials ....	....	....	11
Protection of open food ....	....	....	27
Provision of clothing accommodation ....	....	....	6
Provision of hot water ....	....	....	23
Provision of towels, soap, nailbrush ....	....	....	31
Provision of wash-hand basin ....	....	....	9
Provision — “Vacant-Engaged” bolts to W.C. ....	....	....	1
Provision of refuse bin ....	....	....	2
Provision of sink for washing equipment....	....	....	3
Provision of Notices to W.C.’s ....	....	....	1
Provision of refrigerator ....	....	....	1
Displaying name and address on stall ....	....	....	4
Keeping food 18” from ground ....	....	....	1
Remedying defects at premises ....	....	....	13
Cleansing and decorating of premises ...	....	....	7
Cleansing of utensils ....	....	....	1
Provision of water supply in vehicles ....	....	....	3
Provision of storage accommodation for foodstuffs....	....	....	2
Discontinuance of smoking ....	....	....	3
Provision of cupboard for utensils ....	....	....	1
Cooked food cooled to required temperature ....	....	....	1

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955. SECTION 16.

The records show that there were 233 premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream and 116 premises registered for the manufacture or preservation of food at the year’s end.



## FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING.

During the year samples were taken at the recommended rate of 3 per 1,000 population per annum and I am indebted to the Public Analyst (T. McLachlan, Esq., A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C., M.I.Biol.) for the following report on the analyses of samples and other relevant matters regarding the legislation and standards relating to food and drugs.

### REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST.

During the year 1957, 255 samples of food and drugs were examined. Of these 51 samples of milk were taken formally and 204 samples of other foods or of drugs were submitted informally.

The number adulterated or incorrect in some way was 14. The incidence of adulteration may be classified as follows:—

		<i>Number of samples examined</i>	<i>Number of samples adulterated</i>
Milk	... ..	51	—
Other foods	... ..	194	12
Drugs	... ..	10	2

A sample of condensed milk was reported as inferior because the product was slightly sandy to taste and very thick.

It was, however, old stock.

Two samples of beef steak with gravy contained only 65 per cent total meat. The Meat Products Order which was revoked stipulated that beef steak with gravy must contain not less than 75 per cent of meat.

A sample of pork luncheon meat contained only 64 per cent of total meat showing a deficiency of 29 per cent. The disclosure of ingredients was also incorrect.

A lemon pudding mixture was also incorrectly labelled. It should have been described as "Lemon Flavour" and not as lemon.

Some uncooked bread rolls were reported as inferior because they contained pieces of burnt starch material due to the use of an improperly cleaned baking sheet. Although these rolls are sold as uncooked they are partially pre-cooked in order to enable them to keep.

A table jelly was also reported as inferior because of a black mark on one edge of the jelly. This was probably due to a defect in the tinplate of the mould and this accounted for the iron mould stain.

A sample of raspberry vinegar was incorrectly labelled. It was a prepacked food and according to the Labelling of Food Order, 1953, Article 4 (2) the label must specify clearly, legibly and



conspicuously in a permanent position on the label the name and address of the packer or the labeller of the food. A small pencilled note on the label is not sufficient for this purpose. The analysis of this sample brought out a weakness of the British Law. Under the Labelling of Food Order acetic acid, one of the ingredients of this raspberry vinegar, must be glacial acetic acid which is approximately 100 per cent, whereas acetic acid of the British Pharmacopoeia is only 33 per cent strength and as a result much confusion arises and manufacturers are, as in this case, able to choose the definition which is most satisfactory for their particular purpose.

A sample of orange squash was received as a complaint due to the fact that the cork was very mouldy. The bottle had been opened and a large portion of the contents drunk, but the remainder of the contents was still satisfactory for drinking purposes and it is difficult to know why the cork had become so wet and mouldy. There must have been some carelessness somewhere, but in a case like this a fresh cork should have been put into the bottle.

A can of mixed vegetables was also incorrectly labelled as the ingredients were incorrectly disclosed. The manufacturers agreed to amend the label.

A sample of cut mixed peel contained 3.8 per cent of salt and 62.4 per cent of total solids as determined by refractometer and this is equivalent to only 58.6 per cent of sugar. As a result of discussions which have taken place between representatives of manufacturers and of public analysts it is now probable that it will be agreed that cut peel must contain not less than 64 per cent of soluble solids, as determined by the refractometer, a lower figure than was previously expected.

Some confectionery labelled Buttered Fruits was found to contain only 0.41 per cent of total fat, but there was insufficient fat in the sample received to be able to state whether this was or was not butter fat. The Ministry issued a Circular stating that the use of the word "Butter" in connection with the confectionery was to be employed only for those products containing 4 per cent or more of butter fat.

Another sample of confectionery was considered to be incorrectly labelled because the carton in which it was packed showed illustrations of fruits on the front and on two side panels, whereas that flavour was essentially an artificial one. The word "fruit" should have been followed by the word "flavoured." After some correspondence the manufacturers agreed to revise their label.

A sample of backache pills was satisfactorily prepared but the abbreviations on the label failed to comply with the requirements

of the Pharmacy and Medicines Act. The manufacturers agreed to amend the label.

Some Stomach Digestive Tablets were incorrectly labelled. The ingredients were incorrectly declared and failed to comply with the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941. The manufacturers again agreed to amend the label.

#### *Legislation and Official Reports.*

The amount of fresh legislation and the number of official reports issued has again shown a decrease during the year. The Public Analysts' Regulations have been re-issued in order to provide a new form of certificate to meet conditions resulting from the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. With the new Act it may be necessary for a public analyst if he is unable to carry out the whole of the work required to pass a sample to the public analyst for some other area for examination. This revised certificate provides at the same time for those cases where adverse comment may be made on a label, advertisement, or other matter, which may or may not be dependent on chemical analysis, but on which the public analyst is the most competent authority.

The Colouring Matter in Food Regulations came into force in 1957 and revoked that part of the Preservatives, etc., in Food Regulations relating to the addition of colours to foods. Although the regulations came into force on the 30th June, 1957, they do not come into effective operation in the current year as regards sale of food by retail. This was essential if a smooth flow from the manufacturer of food colours or compounds for colouring and flavouring must comply with the order by the 30th September, 1957, whereas in general it may be stated that food sold by retail must comply with the requirements of the order by the 30th June, 1958. For over thirty years the Preservatives, etc., in Food Regulations have provided a short list of colours, whose addition to food was forbidden. Many colours have been found to be suspect of causing cancer and the new order permits the use of thirty organic chemical dyes together with a few more or less natural ones, which have been used over many years. It is hardly necessary to state that this order imposes much more work on the analyst for its efficient administration.

The Pre-Packed Foods (Weights and Measures: Marking) Regulations were made under Sections 6 and 123 of the Food and Drugs Act, and are administered by Weights and Measures Authorities only and not by other Food Authorities. When there is a matter of the content of a particular food, mixed with other ingredients, one would have thought it better to handle the matter via the food inspector and the public analyst. Your analyst had submitted to him a tin marked to contain a definite weight of



smoked salmon, but in which more oil (undeclared) was present than salmon, the declared weight being that of the total contents of the tin. Whilst this matter can be handled in other ways one would have thought that this order would have been the simplest one.

The Food Standards Committee issued a Report on a Standard for Ice Cream. Essentially this report proposed to maintain the present standards for ice cream with the prohibition of the use of saccharin and other artificial sweeteners, except in the case of ice cream made for diabetics, which could be suitably labelled. The Committee recommend, however, that provision should be made for "dairy ice cream," of which the fat should be entirely milk fat, and "milk ice" made on the basis of the old fashioned hokey-pokey, which is essentially a custard-type ice with a milk fat content of not less than 2.5 per cent.

The Food Standards Committee also issued a revised Report on Fluorine. The previous report was issued in 1947 following the discovery of very large quantities of fluorine in phosphates used in baking powders resulting from the emergency conditions caused by the war. These circumstances have now disappeared and it is proposed to restrict drastically the quantities of fluorine permitted in acidic phosphates used for foods, in baking powders, and in flour products containing such phosphates.

There is, however, a considerable delay between the issue of Reports by the Food Standards Committee and ensuing legislation. Thus the following Reports have appeared:—

Report on Antioxidants. The revised report appeared in 1954, but no legislation has followed so far. Now that the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations have removed colours from the orbit of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, the time is ripe for a fresh order.

Second Report on Processed Cheese and Cheese Spread. This revised report appeared in 1956. Legislation is also required to control the descriptions of skimmed, partially skimmed, and so-called cream cheeses.

Report on Emulsifying and Stabilising Agents. This Report appeared in 1956.

Reports have been issued on Arsenic (Revised Report, 1955), Copper (1956), Lead (Revised Report, 1954), Tin (1952), and Zinc (1954), but no further action has ensued although it is believed that an Order controlling the quantity of arsenic in food may not be long delayed.

The Food Standards (Soft Drinks) Order was last revised in 1953 and it was immediately pointed out that the definition of drinks made from "whole fresh oranges" was ambiguous and need clarification, but no revised order has yet appeared.



When delays of two years or more occur after the issue of Reports of the Food Standards Committee without any administrative action being taken by the Government, it places food administration by Local Authorities in a difficult position and manufacturers are left in a quandary. Reputable manufacturers hesitate to act merely on the recommendations of the Food Standards Committee, whilst others are prepared to take a risk. Public Analysts on the other hand are loath to condemn products, which comply with the proposals of a Standing Government Committee, because of the risk of caustic comments from the Courts. In spite of the continual pressure of Local Authorities and public analysts no order has yet been made to control the meat content of sausages, though one would have expected more regard to have been paid to the comments of the Lord Chief Justice on this point. Other products, such as stewed steak, stewed steak in gravy and luncheon meat show a continued deterioration in the quantity of meat present, but the Courts are unwilling to lay down standards when the Government seems unable to do so. There is much so-called chocolate on the market at the present time containing large quantities of hardened palm kernel oil instead of cocoa butter and milk chocolate containing separated milk powder.

The year 1960 will mark the centenary of the passing of the first food and drugs act and the inaction of the Government at the present time reminds one strongly of the inertia shown by Governments of that time and the efforts made by Dr. Wakeley, in setting up the Lancet Commission, and others in order to force their hands. It is difficult to know to what extent the present position has arisen from the frequent changes taking place at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, where food administration appears, at the present time, to be a training ground for higher office either in the political field or in the administration service.

Looking to the future, Public Analysts are deeply concerned by the need to safeguard the public against the effects of radioactivity. The recent incident at Windscale brought the matter into prominence, but even before that a good deal of preliminary work had been done by Public Analysts. The task of monitoring pastures, crops, etc., in the vicinity of atomic installations is vested in the Ministry of Agriculture by the Atomic Energy Act, but the ultimate responsibility for the protection of the public must rest on the Public Analyst. Many foods are imported from abroad, from regions which may be affected by "fall-out" from test explosions, or canned fish may come from seas into which radioactive effluents flow. Fish may concentrate radioactive elements up to two million times the amount in the sea water in which they live.

As the complexity of the work has increased so has the equipment of the analyst's laboratory. The crude adulteration of the

earlier years demanded only the simplest equipment, but the tasks of today require the use of complex physical instruments such as absorptionmeters, flamephotometers, polarographs, etc. Without these instruments the determination of many essential factors, such as vitamins, would be impossible. As an example, your analyst has recently purchased a spectrophotometer which, with the ancillary equipment cost over £800. Not many years ago a large laboratory could have been equipped for such a sum. The use of such equipment moreover requires highly skilled staff, who are difficult to obtain when the demand for scientists exceeds the supply, and more lucrative fields are open to them. How the situation can best be handled is difficult to foresee, but it is one to which considerable thought must be given in the near future.

Article	Informal	Formal	Total	Number adulterated, etc.		
				Formal	Informal	Total
Almonds, ground	2	—	2	—	—	—
Angelica	1	—	1	—	—	—
Baby Food	1	—	1	—	—	—
Baking Powder	1	—	1	—	—	—
Beans (canned)	2	—	2	—	—	—
Beans and sausage (canned)	1	—	1	—	—	—
Bicarbonate of soda	1	—	1	—	—	—
Biscuits	3	—	3	—	—	—
Biscuits, chocolate	1	—	1	—	—	—
Bread rolls, uncooked	1	—	1	—	1	1
Breakfast cereal	3	—	3	—	—	—
Cake mixture	2	—	2	—	—	—
Cake	5	—	5	—	—	—
Calves foot jelly	1	—	1	—	—	—
Chocolate beverage	2	—	2	—	—	—
Coconut, dessicated	2	—	2	—	—	—
Coffee	1	—	1	—	—	—
Coffee and chicory	1	—	1	—	—	—
Colouring, cochineal	2	—	2	—	—	—
Confectionery	24	—	24	—	2	2
Cornish pasty	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cream	3	—	3	—	—	—
Custard powder	2	—	2	—	—	—
Dessert powder	2	—	2	—	—	—
Essence, lemon flavoured	1	—	1	—	—	—
Fish, bottled.						
salmon mayonnaise	1	—	1	—	—	—
Fish, canned	3	—	3	—	—	—
Fish, dried bommoloe	1	—	1	—	—	—
Fish paste	2	—	2	—	—	—



Article	Informal	Formal	Total	Number adulterated, etc.		
				Formal	Informal	Total
Flavouring syrup	2	—	2	—	—	—
Fruit, dried	2	—	2	—	—	—
Fruit, glace	2	—	2	—	—	—
Fruit, juice	2	—	2	—	—	—
Fruit syrup	1	—	1	—	—	—
Herbs, dried, mixed	1	—	1	—	—	—
Honey	1	—	1	—	—	—
Ice cream	2	—	2	—	—	—
Icing, soft	1	—	1	—	—	—
Icing mixture	1	—	1	—	—	—
Invalid food	1	—	1	—	—	—
Jam	2	—	2	—	—	—
Jelly	4	—	4	—	1	1
Jelly with fruit	1	—	1	—	—	—
Jelly tablet	1	—	1	—	—	—
Macaroni with cheese sauce	1	—	1	—	—	—
Macaroni product	3	—	3	—	—	—
Margarine	1	—	1	—	—	—
Marmalade	2	—	2	—	—	—
Marzipan	1	—	1	—	—	—
Marzipan cake decorations	2	—	2	—	—	—
Meat, bottled	1	—	1	—	—	—
Meat, canned	9	—	9	—	3	3
Meat paste	4	—	4	—	1	1
Meat pie	1	—	1	—	—	—
Meat pudding, canned	1	—	1	—	—	—
Milk	—	51	51	—	—	—
Milk, condensed	1	—	1	—	1	1
Mincemeat	1	—	1	—	—	—
Mint in vinegar	1	—	1	—	—	—
Nut paste	2	—	2	—	—	—
Oil, ground nut	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pancake mixture	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pastry uncooked	1	—	1	—	—	—
Peanut butter	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pepper, white	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pease pudding	2	—	2	—	—	—
Peel, mixed cut	2	—	2	—	1	1
Peel, preserved	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pickles	2	—	2	—	—	—
Pickled cabbage	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pie filling	1	—	1	—	—	—
Piping jelly	1	—	1	—	—	—



Article	Informal	Formal	Total	Number adulterated, etc.		
				Formal	Informal	Total
Potato Crisps	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pudding Mixture	2	—	2	—	—	—
Pudding, Xmas	1	—	1	—	—	—
Raspberry vinegar	1	—	1	—	1	1
Ravioli	1	—	1	—	—	—
Rennet	1	—	1	—	—	—
Rice pudding, canned	2	—	2	—	—	—
Salad dressing	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sauce	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sausages	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sausage rolls	1	—	1	—	—	—
Soft drinks	7	—	7	—	—	—
Soup powder	12	—	12	—	—	—
Soup Tablet	1	—	1	—	—	—
Spaghetti in tomato sauce	1	—	1	—	—	—
Spread, chicken	1	—	1	—	—	—
Spread, savoury	2	—	2	—	—	—
Suet, shredded	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sugar, Demerara	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sugar Corn, canned	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sugar Icing	1	—	1	—	—	—
Tomato Puree	1	—	1	—	—	—
Treacle	1	—	1	—	—	—
Salt	1	—	1	—	—	—
Turkey, minced	1	—	1	—	—	—
Turkey, minced, bottled	1	—	1	—	—	—
Vegetables, canned	1	—	1	—	1	1
Vegetable salad in mayonnaise	1	—	1	—	—	—
Vinegar	2	—	2	—	—	—
Welsh Rarebit	1	—	1	—	—	—
DRUGS :						
Backache Pills	1	—	1	—	1	1
Cascara Tablets	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cod Liver Oil and Malt	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cold Capsules	1	—	1	—	—	—
Health Salts	1	—	1	—	—	—
Herbal Cough Mixture	1	—	1	—	—	—
Glycerine Lemon and Ipecacuanha Mixture	1	—	1	—	—	—
Lung Tonic	2	—	2	—	—	—
Stomach Digestive Tablets	1	—	1	—	1	1
	204	51	255	—	14	14

## ACTION TAKEN ON UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

*Condensed Milk* : Retailer agreed to label his stock "Old Stock."

*Beef Steak with Gravy (2)* : No action was taken in these two cases, there being no standard in force governing the meat content of this product.

*Pork Luncheon Meat* : Stocks of this product were withdrawn by the suppliers and the packers agreed to amend the label.

*Lemon Pudding Mix* : The mixes produced by this firm had already been withdrawn and production has ceased.

*Bread Rolls* : Upon investigation the manufacturers gave details of the stringent cleansing measures taken at their factory and gave assurances that if any improvement in their system was possible it would be undertaken.

*Table Jelly* : Upon investigation the manufacturers gave details of the extensive measures taken to prevent iron mould stain and this would appear to be an isolated case.

*Raspberry Vinegar* : The manufacturers agreed to withdraw the label in question.

*Mixed Vegetables* : The manufacturers agreed to reprint the label in question.

*Cut Mixed Peel* : No action was taken regarding this sample — there being no official standard.

*Buttered Fruits* : Manufacturers agreed to alter the label to "Butter Flavoured Fruits."

*Chocolate covered Fruit Centres* : The manufacturers agreed to reprint the carton.

*Backache Pills* : Manufacturers agreed to alter the labels.

*Stomach Digestive Tablets* : An amended label was agreed with the manufacturers.

## SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASE		Notified	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	54	I	—
Dysentery	...	103	—	—
Pneumonia	...	125	13	3
Infective Hepatitis	...	58	2	—
Whooping Cough	...	148	—	—
Measles	...	2254	10	—
Erysipelas	...	6	I	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	24	19	—
Food Poisoning	...	88	4	—
Acute Poliomyelitis				
(Paralytic)	...	6	6	I
(Non Paralytic)	...	6	6	—
Meningococcal Meningitis.		3	3	I
Typhoid Fever	...	3	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		I	—	—
*Diphtheria	...	I	I	—

\* Indicates diagnosis not confirmed.



## AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 yrs. over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	2	4	7	30	10	1	...	54
Infective Hepatitis ...	...	...	1	...	1	18	16	5	17	58
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	12	24
Pneumonia ...	7	2	4	4	6	18	5	6	73	125
Dysentery ...	...	...	1	6	6	36	35	12	7	103
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	6
Whooping Cough ...	13	22	25	21	16	47	3	...	1	148
Measles ...	78	213	312	326	332	955	26	11	1	2254
Food Poisoning ...	8	7	5	2	4	5	2	6	49	88
Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	3
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	...	...	6
" (Non-Paralytic) ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	1	1	6
*Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

\* Indicates diagnosis not confirmed.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases occurring in the area is not, except in the case of measles, unduly high and the modern trend not to admit the vast majority of cases to hospital will be noted.

The production of antibiotics has altered the treatment of many of these diseases, which fact is instanced in the number of cases of pneumonia. Out of 125 notified cases only 13 were admitted to hospital.

The number of cases of Food Poisoning, Dysentery, etc., still causes a great deal of work to the Public Health Department, more especially as before the patient or contacts, in the case of food handlers, return to work two negative swabs are required.

*Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.*

*Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.*

No action was taken under the above headings.

## TUBERCULOSIS

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	...	...	...	I	I	...	...	..
5-14 yrs.	I	2	I	...	...	...	...	...
15-24 ,,	7	5	I	I	...	...	...	...
25-44 ,,	14	14	...	2	4	...	...	...
45-64 ,,	7	3	2	I	7	2	...	...
65 up-wards	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	32	26	4	5	12	2	...	...

## SECTION "G"

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1948

## INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of Inspec- tions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authority ....	21	9	—	—
(ii) Factories (not included in (i) above) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	289	127	8	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ....	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ....	310	136	8	—

## CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred		To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperatures (S.3) ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors.... (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—						
(a) Insufficient ....	2	—	—	2	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	2	—	4	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to Outwork) ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ....	7	2	—	6	—	—

## OUTWORKERS.

A register of outworkers resident in the district is kept, the number so registered being 39.



## SECTION "H"

## SHOPS, ETC., INSPECTION

## LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Shops Acts, 1950.

Young Persons (Employment Act, 1938).

## WEEKLY HALF HOLIDAY ORDERS.

## (1) Grays Thurrock — Wednesday.

Art Needlework Dealers, Boot Dealers, Corn Dealers, Drapers, Dealers in Fancy Goods, Furnishers, Outfitters, Grocers, Ironmongers, Jewellers, Nurserymen, Oil and Colour Merchants, Ships Candler, Sewing Machine Dealers, Stationers, Wardrobe Dealers, Harness Makers, Butchers, Chemists and Hairdressers.

Exemptions:— Photographers, Dealers in photographic goods.

## (2) South Ockendon — Wednesday.

All trades not exempted by Act, Stationers, Corn and Coal Dealers.

## (3) South Ockendon — Thursday.

Stationers.

Exemptions:— Corn and Coal Merchants.

## (4) Stanford-le-Hope — Wednesday.

All trades except those exempted by the Act, together with Furniture Dealers, Hairdressers, Outfitters and Watchmakers.

## (5) Purfleet and Langdon Hills.

All shops exempt from closing.

## (6) Tilbury — Wednesday.

Hairdressers.

## (7) Fobbing.

Coal and Coke Merchants exempted.

## CLOSING ORDERS.

(1) Grays Thurrock — Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 7 p.m.,  
Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 9 p.m.

Art Needlework Dealers, Bakers, Boot and Shoe Merchants, Butchers, Chemists, China and Glass Merchants, Corn Merchants, Dairymen, Drapers, Furnishers, Gents' Outfitters, Ironmongers and Hardware Merchants, Jewellers, Oil and Colour Merchants, Photographers, Sewing Machine Agents and Stationers.

(2) North and South Stifford, West and Little Thurrock.  
Tobacconists — Weekdays 9.30 p.m., Saturday 10 p.m.

*Sunday Trading Exemptions.*

Part of Grays (Old High Street from Market Place to Grays Beach).	Photographic requisites. Sale of articles for bathing or fishing, toys, souvenirs, fancy goods, books, stationery, photographs, reproductions & postcards.	9 a.m. to 8 p.m. 1st June - 19th September.
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The situation in the district with regard to the various Orders is somewhat chaotic and, in my opinion, it is necessary for additional staff to be appointed in order that a complete survey of shops can be undertaken with a view to the making of Orders which will secure uniformity throughout the area.

During the year under review, 124 inspections of shops were made to ensure that shopkeepers were keeping to the provisions of the Shops Act.

Several minor infringements were noted and the shopkeepers informed of the requirements of the various enactments. It has not been necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

